

## 5/21/2009 Moran, Delegation Support Disaster Declaration for Kansas

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran, and Members of the Kansas delegation, today supported the request for a disaster declaration that was sent to President Obama as a result of the March 26-29, 2009 winter storms that hit southwest, northwest and south-central Kansas. Governor Mark Parkinson is requesting federal Public Assistance for 14 counties, snow removal assistance for 19 counties and Hazard Mitigation for the entire state.

"Kansas communities affected by the March storms need assistance with the cost of cleanup and recovery efforts," Moran said. "We are fortunate there was not more damage from these storms in these areas, thanks to the state and local emergency recovery response. By supporting the disaster declaration request, I am hopeful that funding is provided so that affected communities can quickly rebuild and repair."

Preliminary assessments estimate damage at approximately \$18.6 million. Immediately following the storms, a state disaster emergency was declared for the affected counties. Public Assistance refers to money that is used to restore public infrastructure, such as roads, bridges and utilities, and for associated recovery costs, such as debris removal from public roads. The Hazard Mitigation Program funds projects that are designed to eliminate or reduce the impact of disasters to a community, such as flood control measures.

Public Assistance was requested for: Butler, Chase, Chautauqua, Coffey, Cowley, Dickinson, Elk, Grant, Greenwood, Harvey, Lyon, Marion, Sumner and Woodson counties. Assistance for snow removal under the Public Assistance program was requested for: Barber, Barton, Clark, Comanche, Edwards, Grant, Haskell, Kearney, Kingman, Kiowa, McPherson, Meade, Pratt, Reno, Rice, Seward, Stafford, Stanton and Stevens counties. Funding for the Hazard Mitigation Program was requested statewide.

The following delegation letter supporting the disaster declaration was sent to the President today:

Dear President Obama:

Beginning March 26, 2009, a blizzard of record-setting proportions hit southwest, northwest and south-central Kansas. Officials with the Kansas Division of Emergency Management indicate that over the course of four days anywhere from 8 to 30 inches of snow was received. This snowfall, combined with wind gusts as high as 60 mph, produced a very dangerous weather emergency. This crisis resulted in widespread disruption of travel and substantial damage to public and private infrastructure, including roads and bridges.

Governor Mark Parkinson has requested that you declare a major disaster for the State of Kansas. We urge you to support and approve this request.

Local and state officials worked diligently to meet emergency assistance and disaster recovery needs. However, state and local resources are strained. Federal assistance is needed in order to recover from this disaster.

Mr. President, thank you for your timely consideration of this important matter. Please feel free to call on us if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Sen. Sam Brownback

Sen. Pat Roberts

Rep. Jerry Moran

Rep. Lynn Jenkins

Rep. Dennis Moore

Rep. Todd Tiahrt

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